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NO. 3

MASS MEETING OF TAXPAYERS TO BE HELD

City Council Reassures Residents Regarding Arlington Paving

The answer to the question, "What's the matter with Arlington avenue paving?" was the magnet that drew scores of property owners on that thoroughfare to the city hall Tuesday night to discuss the matter with the city trustees.

Seldom before in the history of the city has so much interest been created or the congregation of so many residents in the council chamber.

While recriminations and personalities were frequently indulged in by one or two boisterous and over-wrought participants in the discussion, the crowd left the chamber at 11 o'clock convinced that the trustees will see that the former's grievances will be remedied and that a satisfactory paving will be given them.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fitzhugh who announced to the crowd that occupied every chair and overflowed to the city hall steps, that he was delighted with the result of the council's invitation to attend the meeting and that each step both technical and legal in the paving of Arlington avenue would be explained.

Following his remarks he read from the columns of the Torrance Herald of December 22 a letter from the Willite company in which the president of the concern acknowledges the defects in the paving laid on Arlington and guarantees that for a period of three years the paving will be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Mayor Fitzhugh explained the position of the city council in accepting the work of the contractor by saying that a complete and thorough investigation by the city engineer and his assistants had convinced them that the contractor had fulfilled every requirement of the city's specifications. That this being the case the latter was entitled to his money, irrespective of the fact that before acceptance of the work was had defects began to appear.

According to Mayor Fitzhugh, later corroborated by City Attorney Briney, if the city had failed to accept the work and the matter had gone into court on mandamus proceedings the contractor could have proved to the satisfaction of the court that he had carried out the provisions of the city's orders and would have secured judgment. After many weary days of thought and consultation the trustees decided, the mayor said, to try and secure some sort of a guarantee from the Willite people. This was accomplished before the acceptance of the work and the mayor and the other members of the board were convinced that the letter of the paving concern would bind the latter to either satisfactorily repair the road or relay the entire upper coating.

The mayor was followed by City Attorney Briney, who in words of one syllable explained to the audience the legal phases of the paving contract, reiterating what the mayor said regarding the delicate position in which the city would be placed if it had refused to accept the work of the contractor when diligent inquiry had shown that the latter had done in every way everything that the city's specifications had required of him.

The technical aspect of the work was explained by City Engineer Jessup, who said that in his opinion and that of scores of road engineers throughout this country, defects in road construction were many times due to purely local conditions; that a roadbed that might stand up for years under a certain strain in one part of the country, state or county might be an utter failure in another section, and likened roadmaking in this respect to the baking of bread—one batch being of an excellent quality while another made with the same ingredients and temperature would be a failure.

Regarding the acceptance of the work on Arlington and in answer to the question why he had signed the acceptance, Mr. Jessup said that he was convinced the contractor was not at all at fault; that he had done everything required of him by the terms of the city's specifications, and that he had been willing to do even more than his contract called for in an effort to give the city a good paving.

Mr. Jessup said further that the present unsatisfactory condition of the street was not, in his opinion a reflection on the merits of Willite as a paving substance, but that local conditions had made of it the "bad batch of bread." He assured the taxpayers that repairs on the road would be begun next week and before closing his remarks suggested that the Willite company, whose reputation will not allow them to leave the street in an unsatisfactory condition, be allowed to do such repair work as is necessary during the next two years, at the end of which time, if

NOTICE
The second annual meeting of the directors of the Torrance Hospital Association of Torrance, will be held in the Torrance Public Library, Torrance, California, at 2:30 P. M., Thursday, February 8, 1923.
ISABELLE HENDERSON, Secy.
J-19-26.

Big M. W. A. Show To Be Given Feb. 7

Wednesday, February 7, has been selected by the Modern Woodmen of America as the date for their big benefit show at the Torrance auditorium. At a late hour this week it was found that alterations in the theater would make the change necessary and as the repairs to the building will increase the seating capacity of the house and add to the comfort of the guests, they feel the slight delay will be a decided benefit.

The vaudeville program furnished by the well known Parks Vaudeville Exchange of Los Angeles under the direct supervision of Miss Martha Dye, an experienced entertainer, promises to be the best ever given in Torrance. The complete program and a further announcement of the big show and drawing will be given in detail in next week's paper.

—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

Permits to Build Total \$38,550

While no building permits have been taken out this month for any of the nine business blocks soon to be erected in Torrance, City Clerk Bartlett is daily issuing permits for the erection of many homes and since Jan. 10 has permitted building valued at \$21,500.

Included in this list is the permit for the erection of five double bungalows at 930-36 Arlington by the Industrial Housing corporation at a cost of \$13,500. Others securing permits since January 10 are L. M. Crowell, 1307 Amapola; E. E. Gilbert, Lincoln street; Mr. Boyce, 1823 Babrillo and two for Sam Perman, 2073 Carson. The total value of permits issued for January up to and including the 17th is \$38,550.

—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

necessary, they can be asked to entirely relay the upper portion at the company's expense.

He attributed the constant slipping of the upper layer to the fact that the upper and nether layer were not properly bound and that the traffic on the road caused the upper layer to actually travel in the direction of traffic.

In reply to a question the engineer stated that in his estimation such repairs as the road needs will cost the Willite company from five to ten cents a square foot.

Answering W. T. Klusman's accusation that improper inspection of the roadway had been made and that the speaker had personally inspected the work from time to time and found that heavy teamleads were permitted on the bare ground in front of the work as the latter proceeded down the street and that the holes made by the vehicle's wheels were merely covered over with loose sand, the engineer said the work was always under proper inspection. He said that the hauling of heavy loads of road material over the grading was unavoidable and that after such trips the road was carefully inspected and ruts and holes properly filled.

Answering a statement by Mrs. Lessing, an Arlington avenue property owner, that the inspector had informed her and others that he was receiving a salary from both the Willite company and the city, was denied by both the mayor and the engineer.

Many hearty laughs were indulged in both at the expense of the city officials and spectators during the course of the evening. At one time Trustee Proctor in explaining the situation to one of the women in the audience spoke of the good and bad cake, already referred to, and said: "If you had used the same ingredients for the bad cake that you did for the good one you surely would not blame your ill luck on the maker of the flour, would you?"

"No, but I would throw away the cake and not try to patch it up," retorted the woman, whose witty remark cleared the surcharged atmosphere and restored the good nature of the belligerent portion of the audience.

At the conclusion of the lengthy and enlightening argument it was suggested that a mass meeting be held in the near future; that notices of such meeting be published; and that a recognized representative of the Willite company be invited to address the meeting.

After an adjournment for 30 minutes when the board of directors were the guests of the Bartlett Sweet Shop at a midnight supper, the following business was transacted:
Permit to open and operate a pool hall in the Erwin building, given Messrs. Bennett and Ryan.
Request of the Business Men's association that the city bear a

—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

Ideal Holding Company Formed

The fore part of the week, especially Monday night, many meetings were held in Torrance as the result of the oil excitement and will be held on Saturday evening, January 27, in Legion hall, Torrance. Those who have attended the Auxiliary dances in the past have experienced pleasure at the well-planned programs, and each dance held something of interest for the patrons of these affairs.

But the dance to be held on the 27th of this month will outdo all the others. A gang of bandits will be on hand to furnish some wonderful dance music, and at the same time render some real entertainment along vocal lines. These are known as the "Jazz Bandits," and each one of them is an artist in his particular line.

The object of these dances is to raise money for the activities of the unit, and to create interest in the Auxiliary and the American Legion.

There will be no tickets printed or put into circulation for this affair, but admission will be collected at the door. The tariff for this dance will be one dollar per couple and twenty-five cents for extra ladies.

A large attendance is expected, and a good time is guaranteed those who attend.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

MORE FREE STREET DANCES

Urged by the dancing set of Torrance to continue at regular intervals the enjoyable street dances that have been given twice by Tom Bartlett of the Bartlett Sweet Shop, this energetic business man secured permission of the city council Tuesday night to give these dances twice each month on Saturday nights.

The council also granted permission to Mr. Bartlett to string lights across El Prado and to rope off against vehicular traffic the street in front of his place of business.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

A large number of Torrance Pacific Electric people and their friends attended the dance at Redondo Beach Wednesday evening, January 17, given by the Pacific Electric club.

portion of the salary of a special night watchman was granted, not to exceed four consecutive months, the city's portion to be \$50 or less as the case may be.

Permission was given T. B. Bartlett to conduct two free street dances each month and to install strings of lights across El Prado in front of his place of business.

As but one bid was received for the planning for the new fire house and jail, that of the Torrance Plumbing company, in amount \$914, was referred to the city engineer for recommendation.

Bids for the electric wiring and fixtures of the jail and fire house were as follows: H. & S. Electric company, \$350.40; Torrance Electric Shop, \$344.40. The latter bid was accepted.

G. A. R. Steiner outlined a plan being formulated by the Dominguez Land corporation for the subdividing of certain tracts into 5-acre lots so as to give an opportunity for investment by people of limited means.

The matter of the children's playground was referred to the street and park committee with power to act. The latter will have the selected site on El Prado cleared and fenced.

The maps of tracts 5925 and 5944 presented to the board were approved by resolution.
The written request of Messrs. Cook & Wagner to conduct a used car business on lot 25, block 4, was refused and the clerk asked to notify the applicants and urge them to secure a building in which to display their wares. It was also decided to request Schultz, Peckham & Schultz to remove their used cars from Cabrillo street.

A letter from the county surveyor explaining his objection to subdivisions such as tract 5504 was tabled.
The matter of the request of the chamber of commerce that red safety lights be installed at the corner of Arlington and Marcelina and at the junction of Carson, Manua, and El Prado was referred to the lights committee and that the city engineer be instructed to work along the lines of this request.
The county tax collector notified the city that taxes to the amount of \$32,521.35 had been collected for December.
Two requests from the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company with sketches attached for permission to set poles and anchors, was granted.
Mr. Mowry was granted permission to erect a bungalow court on Arlington street within ten feet of the property line.
The city clerk was instructed to call for bids for three cells and a corridor for the jail, said bids to be opened February 20.
An amendment to ordinance No. 1 was approved as read for the first time.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

"Jazz Bandits" At Midwinter Dance

The ladies of the Auxiliary of the American Legion will give the public something out of the ordinary at their next dance, which will be held on Saturday evening, January 27, in Legion hall, Torrance. Those who have attended the Auxiliary dances in the past have experienced pleasure at the well-planned programs, and each dance held something of interest for the patrons of these affairs.

But the dance to be held on the 27th of this month will outdo all the others. A gang of bandits will be on hand to furnish some wonderful dance music, and at the same time render some real entertainment along vocal lines. These are known as the "Jazz Bandits," and each one of them is an artist in his particular line.

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SECOND "WELL" DISCOVERED IN KEYSTONE

Cesspool On Dimessa Place Produces Oil of High Gravity

Instead of "Watch Keystone Grow" the slogan for that rapidly developing suburb of Torrance will be "Watch Keystone's Cesspool," if new discoveries of oil are added to the two that have created so much interest among oil men and investors since Sunday and brought thousands of visitors to this enterprising town.

Following the startling and mystifying discovery Sunday of heavy oil of 38 gravity in a cesspool 30 feet deep on the six-acre tract of Peter Deseran on Main street boulevard, another stampee was started Wednesday, when at a depth of 25 feet oil was discovered by a Mexican on the six-acre farm of G. Demessa, 300 yards west of the original discovery.

While the oil on the latter tract is of lighter nature, its gravity is thought to be as high as the Deseran test while the shale and earth from the excavator is of a similar nature to that of the discovery well.

It was learned that two pipe lines running to the tanks of the General Petroleum site a mile away had been laid along Main street boulevard. The field superintendent of the latter was asked his opinion of the find.

"I know nothing about it personally," said he, "but will say that in my opinion it cannot possibly be a leakage from our pipes. In the first place, should our pipes leak, evidence of the leak would show on top of the ground at once and as our watchmen and inspectors who cover the lines at least once a day have made no report of a break in the line such a solution is impossible.

"That the oil could not come from our lines is also proven by the fact that at no time does oil or even 'slops distillate' with a higher gravity than 33 pass through our pipes.

"While the discovery is a puzzle to me, he continued, 'it is not unprecedented as similar pools near the surface have been found, particularly near La Brea, where later drilling by both the General Petroleum and Union has developed some of the highest gravity wells in that district.

"The singular feature of the find is that a test of the oil on the Deseran tract shows a higher gravity than either Signal Hill or the most easterly wells in the Torrance field."

On the strength of the showing made in the two cesspools acreage in Keystone has doubled in price in the past few days and acre are said to be rapidly changing hands in the immediate vicinity of the "wells" at from \$3000 to \$4000.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

The "Jazz Bandits" of Los Angeles, widely known for the wonderful dance music, will entertain at the American Legion Auxiliary dance, Saturday, January 27.
A snappy, jazzy Bandit Orchestra, late of the Orpheum circuit. Lots of sociability; a good clean, slippery floor and all the rest of the good things that make the American Legion Auxiliary dances so popular, are on the program for Saturday evening, January 27.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—

COOKED FOOD SALE

Woman's club of Torrance will hold a cooked food sale at Park's plumbing establishment on Saturday, January 20.

BIG CROWD AT FORUM MEET MONDAY EVE.

All Had Say About Questions That Confront City

Perhaps the largest gathering of the monthly forum meetings of the chamber of commerce was held last Monday night in Legion Hall, with L. F. Bennett presiding. After routine affairs were disposed of the meeting was turned over to open discussion, many taking advantage of the occasion to offer suggestions and make recommendations.

In opening the meeting, an event that was delayed until nearly nine o'clock, President Hyde made his first official address that comprehensively covered the objects and aims of a chamber of commerce.

Laying special stress on the housing situation in Torrance and on the fact that at least five hundred homes were immediately needed here to accommodate the workmen now compelled to live elsewhere, Mr. Hyde paid a glowing tribute to the Torrance Building & Loan association and urged his hearers to invest their savings in that institution for the good of not only themselves, but the entire community.

The extension of the city's parks, the extension of the unsatisfactory telephone and street car service and the establishment of a playground, were other subjects that he said came within the province of the local chamber of commerce and begged the members to carefully consider these questions and find means of making proper corrections and improvements.

"Citizens of Torrance should look on their chamber as a big business and its affairs should be conducted along the same lines as those of a large manufacturing plant," said Mr. Hyde.

Following the president's remarks Mr. Louis F. Bennett, who had been selected by President Hyde as chairman of the Forum meeting, took charge and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and E. F. Earl, representative of the Ready-Cut Homes Company, Incorporated, addressed the meeting on the necessity of new homes in Torrance.

"A community of homes is a community of happiness," said the speaker and delighted the audience by saying that his company's local representative in Long Beach had recently purchased sixty-four lots in Torrance on which ready-cut homes would be erected.

Secretary H. F. Gadeky came forward and told of how he had become attracted to Torrance, its likable people, its future outlook, but best of all the best town in the county to raise a family. He moved to Torrance Monday. Mr. Gadeky said: "I may do many things some of you do not like. That's possible. I cannot hope to please you all. Criticism is welcomed on my part whenever I err. When I make a mistake I should know of it. But, when I do something good and worthy of commendation, you fellows come around and slap me on the back. That's fair, isn't it?"

Mr. Gadeky paid a glowing tribute to the American Legion, and all Legionaires went away from Monday night's meeting knowing they had another staunch friend.

The playground committee appointed some time ago to select a site for a children's playground reported that the first block of the city of park strip on El Prado had been tentatively selected, the dimensions being 125x500 feet.

George Proctor gave a fine address when he asked for co-operation and suggestions to solve the playground situation.

W. T. Klusman, newly-elected director of the chamber of commerce, spoke along the lines of "only suggestions," and set forth the idea that the city council should accept until the sewer farm question was settled. That was entirely another question, he said. He also called attention to the fees paid special counsel for the city and thought this was uncalled for as there was already a city attorney employed to look after the legal affairs of the city.

J. J. Byrnes asked about the telegraph committee and wanted to learn what progress had been made with the Western Union, if any. Postmaster Gourdiere explained that the matter was being well handled and that assurance had been given by the Western Union just as soon as the right of way was secured by the Santa Fe railroad into the harbor at San Pedro.

The meeting was finally brought to a close by a gentleman whose name we could not learn, when he gave his "banquet table speech," which many interpreted to be nothing more than "single tax" propaganda.
The Keystone chamber of com-

ALASKAN TO BUILD HOMES

ON 220TH

Agent of Housing Co. Purchases Sixty-Four Lots on Artisano

The first concrete evidence that home building on an extended and comprehensive scale was to actually start in Torrance was the announcement Monday night at the chamber of commerce forum by a representative of the Pacific Ready-Cut House company that their Long Beach representative had purchased sixty-four lots in Torrance on which they would build.

Investigation resulted in discovering that the purchase of the lots in question, situated at the southeast corner of Artisano avenue and 220th street and directly east of the Hendrie Tire company site, was recently made by E. R. Bell of Long Beach.

Mr. Bell, who it is said is an Alaskan pioneer, and who reaped a golden harvest in the northern country during the Klondike rush, purchased the tract as a personal investment and not as a representative of the Ready-Cut Homes company and will from his own funds erect on the sixty-four lots, homes both for rent and sale.

This information was corroborated by Mr. John Salm, of the Salm Manufacturing company, who entertained Mr. Bell and the latter's wife during their stay in Torrance.

"Mr. Bell, with whom I had several conversations on the housing situation," said Mr. Salm, "informed me that he had set no date for the beginning of building operations. The tract of land selected being in the industrial section of Torrance Mr. Bell is rather inclined to await the pending developments in oil before starting his building program.

"While this may delay the erection of the homes in this particular tract I am of the opinion that Mr. Bell will immediately purchase another tract or tracts in the residence section of the city and begin building homes at once.

"He informed me that while building arrangements had been made by him and the company he represents in Compton, Long Beach, San Pedro and three other nearby towns and cities, he was so impressed with the immediate needs of homes in Torrance that he was inclined to abandon or postpone the other plans and concentrate his entire investment in Torrance.

"If he does this we may expect to see the purchase of other tracts in the residence section and the immediate erection of scores and perhaps hundreds of homes."

BUSINESS MEN OF TORRANCE FORM CO.

Headed by Dr. Lancaster, Residents Get 40-Acre Tract

So keen is the interest in oil in the vicinity of Torrance and so great the faith that this field is destined to become one of the great ones in California that combinations of business men for the purpose of acquiring land is of almost daily occurrence.

One of these associations of well known business men gathered together hurriedly to secure a block of land northeast of the city for oil purposes is the Torrance Oil Syndicate, composed of Dr. J. S. Lancaster, who has been chosen as temporary chairman; Postmaster Alfred Gourdiere, as temporary secretary; Judge Post, J. F. Stone and W. H. Gilbert as directors and P. G. Briney as purchaser of the tract.

The parcel of land about to be acquired is forty acres lying northeast from the Pacific Electric bridge that crosses 213th east of the Pacific Electric station and almost directly north of the Edens' 107-acre lease on which drilling will begin within very few days.

Most of the officers and directors of the new oil company have been in close touch with the oil situation in Torrance for months and having become convinced that the trend of high gravity and large production is toward the east, determined Sunday to secure the tract in question.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Shock of Vista Highlands, a four and one-half pound daughter, Mildred, Friday, January 12.

merce turned out strong, and reminded the Torrance people that this courtesy should be recognized by reciprocating. "Only four Torrance people have attended our gatherings in Keystone, and we want you to attend our meetings, and 'look us over.'"
Secretary Gadeky, assisted by others, arranged a delightful repast for the large audience.
—M. W. of A. Show Feb. 7—